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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01986 061810Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 MCT-01 /093 W
----------036723 070204Z /70
R 061200Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0140
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1986

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, ECOWAS, NG
SUBJECT: ECOWAS NONAGGRESSION DECLARATION

1. FONMIN DJERMAKOYE TELLS US NIGER SUPPORTS DECLARATION OF NONAGGRESSION WORKED OUT AT ECOWAS SUMMIT. HE SAYS THIS IS A "FIRST STEP" WHICH NIGER HOPES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN ASSISTANCE PACT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. NIGER'S ATTITUD

ON POSSIBLE ECOWAS DEFENSE STRUCTURES IS THUS MORE POSITIVE THAN TOWARDS SIMILAR CEAO ARRANGEMENTS. IT VIEWS LATTER ORGANIZATION AS TOO RESTRAINED IN MEMBERSHIP TO OFFSET DISADVANTAGES WHICH NIGER MIGHT INCUR VIS-A-VIS ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS--LTYA AND ALGERIA-- BY COMMITTING ITSELF TO MUTUAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH EXCLUSIVELY FRANCOPHONE GROUPING. FOR THIS REASON NIGER HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO BE A FORMAL PARTY TO CEAO MUTUAL DEFENSE
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AGREEMENTS. DJERMAKOYE SAID FROM NIGER'S POINT OF VIEW ALL OF WEST AFRICA (READ NIGERIA) IS MORE LOGICAL FRAME WORK FOR NONAGGRESSION PLEDGES AND EVENTUAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS .
2. KOUNTCHE DID NOT ATTEND LAGOS MEETING, AN ABSENCE WHICH IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING GIVEN HIS STRONG INTEREST IN ORGANIZATION AND NIGER'S USUALLY METICULOUS

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ATTENL ON TO ANYTHING IMPINGING ON ITS RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA.
DJERMAKOYE WAS A BIT GUARDED IN EXPLAINING KOUNTCHE'S
ABSENCE WHICH IS SUBJECT OF SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE
INTERNAL SECURITY CONCERNS AND NOUNTING WORRIES ABOUT FOOD
SITUATION HERE. DJERMAKOYE NOTED ONLY THAT GON WAS REPRE-
SENTED BY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THAT SCENARIO FOR MEETING
HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NIGERIANS LAST TIME KOUNTCHE WAS
IN LAGOS. DAVISON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PEPR, PORG, NG, ECOWAS
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Type: TE
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